25th February 1929]

Forests

Development of the lac industry in Javalagiri and Devarabetta.

*1438 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that about 80 lb. of lac given by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore, to this Government about a year ago have now developed to about 2,000 lb. in Javalagiri and Devarabetta (Salem district); and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ranger in charge of the propagation of this lac has also been on spike duty?

A.—(a) Seventy-five pounds of lac were obtained from the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore, in two batches—35 lb. for the monsoon crop and 40 lb. for the post-monsoon crop. The monsoon crop failed, but the 40 lb. of lac used for the post-monsoon crop in November 1927 have developed to 2,562 lb. by the end of November 1928, that is, in one year. The experiment was conducted at two places, Javalagiri and Devarabetta.

(b) The Ranger was intended solely for "spike" experiments, but was ordered to take up the lac work also as the spike experiments were going on in the same locality.

Mr. K. R. KARANT:—"In view of the development of this industry, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to consider the question of separating the lac propagation work from that of spike work instead of entrusting both the works with one man?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I will consider the suggestion."

Forest panchayats in South Kanara.

*1439 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of forest panchayats established in South Kanara with the rules in force and accepted by the panchayats;

(b) how the panchayats are working;

(c) whether it is contemplated to hand over the reserved forest at Hosabettu and the two neighbouring villages to the Revenue department for management by panchayats; and

(d) if so, when the transfer will take place?

A.—(a) According to the Administration Report of the Forest Department for 1927–28 five panchayats are working in South Kanara.

(b) All the panchayats except one in South Mangalore division are reported to be working satisfactorily.

(c) & (d) No. The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to G.O. No. 38, Development, dated 7th January 1929, a copy of which was already communicated to him. An extract[a] of the relevant portion of the Government Order is also appended.

[a] Printed as Appendix V on page 107 infra.